

The background of the slide features a dark blue field filled with various sizes of interlocking gears in lighter shades of blue. On the far left, there is a vertical strip of a colorful, abstract, and textured pattern in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

WHITE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Overview

- ✦ Define White-American as defined by DOD Dir. 1350.2
- ✦ Describe the origins of White American and the different groups in Colonial America
- ✦ Define the different types of immigration and the impact on individuals
- ✦ Explain European American common experience and displacement
- ✦ Define Redemptioners



Definition

WHITE-AMERICAN
(not of Hispanic origin)

Is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or Middle East

Original White Americans

Three areas of the world

- ★ North Africa related to the Berbers
 - ★ Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya
- ★ Northwestern Europe
 - ★ Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales
- ★ Southwestern Europe
 - ★ Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, USSR, and Yugoslavia



Definition

ANGLO-SAXON AND WHITE ANGLO-SAXON PROTESTANT (WASP)

Is a person of a Caucasoid, northern European, largely protestant stock whose members are held by some to constitute the most privileged and influential group in US. society. In the new-world, they were the landlord and their culture and values with rare exception, were those that defined the culture.

Basic Culture and Values

- ✴ Handwork- craftsman
- ✴ Perseverance - The new world will survive
- ✴ Self-Reliance
- ✴ Puritanism - Self worth, handwork and success as it's own reward, mission to make the world a better place
- ✴ Missionary spirit - Own religious beliefs
- ✴ Abstract rule of the law
- ✴ Consider themselves founders, settlers, and planters verse immigrants

Immigrant

- ★ Defined as one who settles permanently in a foreign country or region.
- ★ In colonial America, those who arrived in America following the Revolutionary War were considered immigrants.

- ★ **BRITISH-AMERICANS**
- ★ **CANADIAN-AMERICANS**
- ★ **FRENCH-AMERICANS**
- ★ **DUTCH-AMERICANS**
- ★ **GERMAN-AMERICANS**
- ★ **IRISH-AMERICANS**
- ★ **ITALIAN-AMERICANS**
- ★ **POLISH-AMERICANS**
- ★ **MIDDLE EASTERN-AMERICANS**

Colonial America

- ★ Foundation: English/England
- ★ Englishman had no desire to lose their English's
 - ★ Build a better England
 - ★ One that would be free of the imperfections of their native land
 - ★ One that would give them greater opportunities for personal happiness

Colonial America

★ Puritans and Pilgrims

- ★ Sought out the wilderness to be truly free of European decadence

★ Their Ideology:

- ★ Protestant Faith
- ★ Diligent application to work
- ★ Individual accomplishment
- ★ Anglo-Saxon legal heritage
- ★ Written compact
- ★ English Language



Colonial America

- ✴ Influences - Factors that influenced the way of life of new arrivals
 - ✴ Learning from those already here
 - ✴ The environment they found
 - ✴ Traditions they brought with them
- ✴ Divergence from the “Homeland” - Three main reasons for divergence
 - ✴ English society not transplanted as a whole
 - ✴ New World- unfamiliar environment
 - ✴ Countries other than England

Colonial America

★ Puritanism

- ★ Puritanism remained affected the outlook of most Americans for many generations in the form of attitudes that were real though hard to define
 - ★ Sense of duty
 - ★ Hard work and success as its own reward
 - ★ Mission to make the world a better place

Colonial America

- ★ Non-English Groups - Colonial immigrants who came to be considered native born
 - ★ Scotch-Irish -250,000 constituted the largest non-English protestants
 - ★ German-200,00 the second most significant European minority
- ★ Non-Protestant Groups
 - ★ 98% of colonial America belonged to one protestant sect or another. 1.4% embraced Roman Catholicism, 0.12% embraced Judaism

Early Americans Common Traits

- ✦ Idealism
- ✦ Flexibility
- ✦ Adaptability to change
- ✦ High respect for personal achievement
- ✦ Dependency on self and immediate fame versus wider community
- ✦ Tendency to conform to the values of peers and neighbors versus stubbornly clinging to traditions or ancestral ways

European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ★ Immigrant Experience- Reasons for immigration to America
 - ★ Religious persecution freedom of worship
 - ★ Political oppression refuge from tyranny
 - ★ Economic hardships - Factors most compelling factor for most immigrants
 - ★ American letters the most powerful selling point, letters were passed from family to family, published in newspapers, discussed in church

European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ★ The Voyage - this presented travelers with unanticipated hardships
 - ★ Saving money for passage
 - ★ Saying good-bye to family and friends
 - ★ No guarantees the ships would sail, extra days=\$\$
 - ★ Long time on ship that were overcrowded and disease ridden

European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ★ America's conscience and servitude
- ★ Indentured Servitude - Most common way of getting to the colonies
 - ★ Outlawed in 1820, printed contracts were common as early as 1636
 - ★ Normally for four years
 - ★ "Freedom Dues" Money, clothes, land at the end of the contract
 - ★ Often auctioned off to highest bidder

Redemptioners

- ✦ Developed in 1708 when Swiss and Germans begin to emigrate
- ✦ Emigrants traveled to many ports and paid tolls
- ✦ Money was gone by the time they reached shipping ports, shipper took what was left giving two weeks to get the money to “REDEEM” themselves: Those who couldn’t pay were sold into servitude (2 yr.)
- ✦ CONVICT LABOR: Most colonist thought poorly of the servants, “Useless there = Useless here”
- ✦ THE DILEMMA: The same men that saw the disparity between the ideals of democracy, convict and indentured labor, condoned slavery.

Immigration

- ★ Immigration Waves
- ★ Immigration Acts and Laws
- ★ Assimilation
 - ★ Language
 - ★ Mass Media

Contemporary America

★ Contemporary America

- ★ Family Patterns- despite changes the White American family has remained nuclear
- ★ Educational Patterns- Constant theme of textbooks is national unity rather than diversity, culture of ideas
- ★ Poverty- Although the poverty rate for whites was lower than that for other groups the majority of poor persons in 1990 were white (66.5%)

★ Current Status of White Americans (1989 census)

- ★ 249 Mil. total Americans 84% (209 Mil.) were white
- ★ Not projected to grow as much as other groups

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